

CALIFORNIA'S CROP PRODUCTION REPORT

Released: October 12, 2000

The latest survey, conducted during the first week of October 2000, includes the following commodities:

Grapes - Production of all grape varieties for the 2000 season is forecast at 6.85 million tons, up 24% from last season. Raisin-type variety grape production is 2.85 million tons, up 35%, while the table-type grape production forecast is 800,000 tons, up 6%. Wine-type grapes are forecast at 3.20 million tons, up 20%. Picking of Thompson Seedless variety grapes for fresh use, wine crush, and raisin-lay was still active in late September. Harvest of the wine-type variety grapes is active with good quality reported.

Oranges - This year's orange crop is forecast at 118.0 million cartons, down 12%. California's Navel orange forecast is 68.0 million cartons, down 15%. Picking of early season Navel orange varieties is expected to begin in the Edison area of Kern County after mid-October. Fruit set is down significantly from last year, but individual fruit size is large. California's Valencia orange forecast is 50.0 million cartons, down 7% from last season's freeze-damaged crop.

Grapefruit - California's grapefruit forecast is estimated at 14.4 million cartons, up 3% from last season. Fruit set is somewhat light compared to last season's, but fruit size and quality are good with normal crop development.

Cotton - American Pima cotton is forecast at 360,000 bales, down 40%. Upland cotton is 2.05 million bales, up 30%. The cotton crop has continued to progress well. The cool weather in late August slowed plant development slightly, but should not be significant as long as the weather remains warm and dry for the next couple of weeks. Insect pressure remains light, except for armyworms which continue to be higher than normal in the San Joaquin and Sacramento valleys.

Others - The lemon forecast is 42.0 million cartons, up 7%; tangerine forecast is 4.00 million cartons, down 13%; pecan production forecast is 2.30 million pounds, up 21%. The corn for grain production is at 1.12 million tons, up 18%; alfalfa hay is at 7.04 million tons, virtually unchanged from 1999; other hay production is at 1.48 million tons, up 1%; and the rice crop is at 43.3 million cwt. with a yield of 7,900 pounds per acre from 548,000 harvested acres.

Production forecasts are released on a monthly basis and do not reflect final production estimates. Late summer and fall harvests may change these estimates considerably. The next production forecast will be issued November 9, 2000.